

• BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MASSACHUSETTS

BELMONT,

• MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
2010

MARCH 9,

• The meeting was called to order at 7:35 in the Claflin Room by Chair Matt Lowrie. Present were trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, David Rich, Hal Shubin, and Heli Tomford, Director Maureen Connors, candidate for library trustee Mark Carthy, and Belmont resident Tony Oberdorfer.

• Mr. Oberdorfer asked the trustees to consider the library realistically with the forthcoming changes in technology. Speaking of the library as an American tradition, he advised the group that giving up the idea of a new library would garner support for reasonable expenditures for the present library. Chair Lowrie thanked Mr. Oberdorfer for taking the time to express his views. The Chair also corrected the misinformation that a library building plan had been rejected at Town Meeting; it was delayed despite the many library supporters present.

• After brief identifying statements by the trustees, Mark Carthy introduced himself. The minutes for the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Trustee Shubin, seconded by Trustee Alligood.

• **Old Business:** Director Connors and Trustee Keenan reported on their meeting with the Warrant Sub-Committee on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Committee members present were Bill Lynch, Eric Smith, and Kim Becker. Director Connors has sent the requested materials to them, including reasons why the former Benton Branch Library would not be a suitable space for the Children's Room.

• Both the new library website and the Director's Evaluation will be forthcoming.

• Director Connors will answer the letter from Mark Clark suggesting combining the high school library with the public library; a study committee a few years ago set forth reasons why this would be most problematic. Trustee Rich suggested a FAQ sheet for some of these questions which have been investigated and answered in the past.

• Trustee Shubin reported on the meeting of the Light Department Site Committee. This decision will impact the library which is waiting for the final consent of the town for land on the north side of Concord Avenue. A trustee presence at various town committee meetings would help keep the library in a visible place in town discussions. Director Connors will again seek input from Pat Brusck of the Permanent Building Committee; specifically, the question is how much land is needed for the high school?

• Director Connors updated the trustees on the new Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) grant round with reimbursement up to 50%. A letter of intent is due on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 is the deadline for approval for the preliminary design and the building program, as well as the hiring process for an architect and project manager to start the design. Town meeting

approval is required by May 6, 2011. Chair Lowrie asked that costs involved be researched and that any work needed to meet a fall deadline be completed by June. The possible assistance of the Belmont Library Foundation (BLF) was also raised.

- Director Connors continues to work for inclusion of the library elevator on the soon -to-be-installed generator for the town's library based Technology.

- **New Business:** The Board of Trustees voted to approve the sale of flash drives for the convenience of library patrons at \$5 each. The motion by Trustee Tomford, seconded by Trustee Shubin, passed unanimously.

- In conjunction with National Library Week, the Board of Trustees voted to waive the customary \$2 fee for replacement library cards during National Library Week. The motion by Trustee Rich, seconded by Trustee Allgood, passed unanimously. Director Connors highlighted some additional activities for National Library Week.

- 

- **Committee Reports:**

- After Trustee Keenan reported on the meeting of the Board of the Friends of the Library, the trustees and Director discussed the forthcoming book sale of the books remaining at Benton Library scheduled for Saturday May 1st. It is recommended to the Friends that books be given away in exchange for food items needed by the Belmont Food Pantry, coordinating this with Pantry Director Patty Mihelich.

- After a brief discussion of the protocol needed, Trustee Rich made a motion, seconded by Trustee Shubin, that the Library Director be allowed to sign a letter from the Foley & Lardner LLP which would acknowledge the pro bono work of Matt Lowrie on behalf of the library. This passed unanimously.

- Director Connors is continuing to investigate a DVD readability verification machine; such equipment would enable the library to accept DVD donations.

- 

- **The next meeting is Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

- 

- The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. on a unanimously approved motion made by Trustee Shubin, seconded by Trustee Rich.

- 

- Respectfully submitted,

- Mary E. Keenan, secretary

- 

-